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## Vietnam

### Agricultural Situation

#### News Summary #5

**2009**

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**Report Highlights:**

\*Rice, catfish productions need more effective planning \*Livestock diseases continue to plague nation's farmers \*Rising catfish prices fail to lure farmers \*Boosting border trade with Cambodia

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Welcome to "News Summary" from Vietnam, an occasional summary of issues of interest to the U. S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within Vietnam, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included and summarized in this report. Significant issues may be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office. Minor grammatical changes have been made for clarification.

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### **Rice, catfish productions need more effective planning**

Dong Thap Province has been urged to synchronize its rice and *tra* catfish farming industries to meet demands and thus avoid problems of overproduction.

In order to bring stability to the industries, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung had assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to work with local authorities to review plans for planting rice and raising *tra* catfish.

According to these plans, the province must closely manage the quality of export products, develop vocational training units to have qualified human resources, focus on investment and construction of social and economic infrastructure and encourage projects that used capital from the local budget.

The Government would advance capital for necessary social and economic projects and assign relevant ministries and sectors to specific projects while the provincial People's Committee chairman must take responsibility for site clearance and resettlement, Dung said.

*(Source: Vietnam News, Mar. 18)*

### **Livestock diseases continue to plague nation's farmers**

Deputy Minister Diep Kinh Tan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) yesterday asked Quang Nam Authorities to prioritize prevention of blue-ear disease among pigs.

The disease has continued to cause more difficulties in the central province over the past two weeks. Other provinces in the north and the south like Quang Ninh, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, Bac Can are also hit by livestock diseases.

MARD has asked sub-departments in affected provinces to vaccinate their livestock and poultry from now until the end of this month, and other provinces should strengthen their quarantine efforts to prevent sick animals from being transported into their localities, said Dam Xuan Thanh, deputy director of the department.

*(Source: Vietnam News, Mar. 18)*

### **Rising catfish prices fail to lure farmers**

Prices of *tra* catfish in the Mekong Delta have begun to rise but farmers are still staying away from breeding them.

In provinces that were leading producers of the catfish like An Giang and Dong Thap, 30 percent of the ponds are lying unused after farmers suffered losses due to oversupply last year.

Nguyen Huu Dung, deputy chairman of the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), said to avoid the situation of oversupply or severe shortage of cat fish at

a given time, seafood processors should regulate the fish breeding quantity by signing contracts with farmers to guarantee consumption of their entire output.

He also called for measures to limit the increase of seafood processing establishments in order to maintain a balance between production and consumption and prevent unhealthy competition.

*(Source: Vietnam News, Mar. 18)*

### **Boosting border trade with Cambodia**

At a conference dedicated to border trade co-operation between Viet Nam and Cambodia over the past two days in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Trade of Cambodia signed a memorandum of understanding on border trade co-operation.

The two countries agreed to simplify the border trade procedure, continue the implementation of a project to build a model market on the border, and set up a general plan for border trade between the two countries.

In 2008, bilateral trade turnover between the two countries was \$1.6 billion, 60 percent of that was from border trading.

Both sides are trying to reach the total bilateral trade turnover's target of \$2 billion by 2010.

*(Source: Vietnam News Agency, Mar. 18)*

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